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APPLICATION NO.	FILING DATE	FIRST NAMED INVENTOR	ATTORNEY DOCKET NO.	CONFIRMATION NO.
09/980,806	04/15/2002	Barry Hemblade	C60.12-0001	8448

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EXAMINER

HE, AMY

ART UNIT PAPER NUMBER

2858

DATE MAILED: 12/08/2003

Please find below and/or attached an Office communication concerning this application or proceeding.

Office Action Summary

Application No.

09/980,806

Applicant(s)

HEMBLADE, BARRY

Examiner

Amy He

Art Unit

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-- The MAILING DATE of this communication appears on the cover sheet with the correspondence address --

Period for Reply

A SHORTENED STATUTORY PERIOD FOR REPLY IS SET TO EXPIRE 3 MONTH(S) FROM THE MAILING DATE OF THIS COMMUNICATION.

- Extensions of time may be available under the provisions of 37 CFR 1.136(a). In no event, however, may a reply be timely filed after SIX (6) MONTHS from the mailing date of this communication.
- If the period for reply specified above is less than thirty (30) days, a reply within the statutory minimum of thirty (30) days will be considered timely.
- If NO period for reply is specified above, the maximum statutory period will apply and will expire SIX (6) MONTHS from the mailing date of this communication.
- Failure to reply within the set or extended period for reply will, by statute, cause the application to become ABANDONED (35 U.S.C. § 133).
- Any reply received by the Office later than three months after the mailing date of this communication, even if timely filed, may reduce any earned patent term adjustment. See 37 CFR 1.704(b).

Status

- 1) ☐ Responsive to communication(s) filed on ____.
- 2a) ☐ This action is **FINAL**. 2b) ☒ This action is non-final.
- 3) ☐ Since this application is in condition for allowance except for formal matters, prosecution as to the merits is closed in accordance with the practice under *Ex parte Quayle*, 1935 C.D. 11, 453 O.G. 213.

Disposition of Claims

- 4) ☒ Claim(s) 1-10 is/are pending in the application.
- 4a) Of the above claim(s) ____ is/are withdrawn from consideration.
- 5) ☐ Claim(s) ____ is/are allowed.
- 6) ☒ Claim(s) 1-6 and 8-10 is/are rejected.
- 7) ☒ Claim(s) 7 is/are objected to.
- 8) ☐ Claim(s) ____ are subject to restriction and/or election requirement.

Application Papers

- 9) ☒ The specification is objected to by the Examiner.
- 10) ☒ The drawing(s) filed on 15 April 2002 is/are: a) ☐ accepted or b) ☒ objected to by the Examiner.
- Applicant may not request that any objection to the drawing(s) be held in abeyance. See 37 CFR 1.85(a).
- Replacement drawing sheet(s) including the correction is required if the drawing(s) is objected to. See 37 CFR 1.121(d).
- 11) ☐ The oath or declaration is objected to by the Examiner. Note the attached Office Action or form PTO-152.

Priority under 35 U.S.C. §§ 119 and 120

- 12) ☒ Acknowledgment is made of a claim for foreign priority under 35 U.S.C. § 119(a)-(d) or (f).
- a) ☒ All b) ☐ Some * c) ☐ None of:
1. ☒ Certified copies of the priority documents have been received.
 2. ☐ Certified copies of the priority documents have been received in Application No. ____.
 3. ☐ Copies of the certified copies of the priority documents have been received in this National Stage application from the International Bureau (PCT Rule 17.2(a)).
- * See the attached detailed Office action for a list of the certified copies not received.
- 13) ☐ Acknowledgment is made of a claim for domestic priority under 35 U.S.C. § 119(e) (to a provisional application) since a specific reference was included in the first sentence of the specification or in an Application Data Sheet. 37 CFR 1.78.
- a) ☐ The translation of the foreign language provisional application has been received.
- 14) ☐ Acknowledgment is made of a claim for domestic priority under 35 U.S.C. §§ 120 and/or 121 since a specific reference was included in the first sentence of the specification or in an Application Data Sheet. 37 CFR 1.78.

Attachment(s)

- 1) ☒ Notice of References Cited (PTO-892)
- 2) ☐ Notice of Draftsperson's Patent Drawing Review (PTO-948)
- 3) ☒ Information Disclosure Statement(s) (PTO-1449) Paper No(s) 4.
- 4) ☐ Interview Summary (PTO-413) Paper No(s). ____.
- 5) ☐ Notice of Informal Patent Application (PTO-152)
- 6) ☐ Other: .

DETAILED ACTION

Specification

1. The abstract of the disclosure is objected to because it contains informality legal phrase " comprises" (lines 8 and 13). Correction is required. See MPEP § 608.01(b).

Drawings

2. Figure 1 is objected to because text labels are required for reference number 11, 13, 15, 17 and 19. A proposed drawing correction or corrected drawings are required in reply to the Office action to avoid abandonment of the application. The objection to the drawings will not be held in abeyance.

Claim Rejections - 35 USC § 102

The following is a quotation of the appropriate paragraphs of 35 U.S.C. 102 that form the basis for the rejections under this section made in this Office action:

A person shall be entitled to a patent unless –

(b) the invention was patented or described in a printed publication in this or a foreign country or in public use or on sale in this country, more than one year prior to the date of application for patent in the United States.

- 3 Claims 1, 2, 8 and 10 are rejected under 35 U.S.C. 102(b) as being anticipated by Turner et al. (U. S. Patent No. 4, 338, 097).

Referring to claim 1, Turner discloses an apparatus (monitoring probe, column 2, line 66-column 3, line 44) for monitoring the effect of a material of exposure to a fluid, said apparatus comprising a sensor element (7a in Figures 2-3) formed as a ring of the material, wherein said ring is mounted coaxially in a section of pipe for carrying said fluid, so as to be exposed to said fluid, and is electrically insulated from said pipe, and

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means (circuit shown in Figures 5-6) for-monitoring changes in electrical resistance in said ring sensor element (column 2 line 66-column 4, lines 45).

Referring to claim 2, Turner discloses the apparatus as claimed in claim 1 further comprising a reference element (7b in Figures 2-3), said reference element being formed also as a ring, mounted coaxially in said pipe section and insulated therefrom, said second ring element being protected from exposure to said fluid.

Referring to claim 8, Turner discloses the apparatus as claimed in claim 2, wherein said elements (7a and 7b in Figures 2-3) are coaxially spaced apart by a spacer ring (9 in Figures 2-3).

Referring to claim 10, Turner discloses the apparatus as claimed in claim 1, wherein at least said sensor element (7a in Figures 2-3) comprises a section cut from said pipe (column 3, lines 10-13).

Claim Rejections - 35 USC § 103

The following is a quotation of 35 U.S.C. 103(a) which forms the basis for all obviousness rejections set forth in this Office action:

(a) A patent may not be obtained though the invention is not identically disclosed or described as set forth in section 102 of this title, if the differences between the subject matter sought to be patented and the prior art are such that the subject matter as a whole would have been obvious at the time the invention was made to a person having ordinary skill in the art to which said subject matter pertains. Patentability shall not be negated by the manner in which the invention was made.

4. Claims 3-6 are rejected under 35 U.S.C. 103(a) as being unpatentable over Turner et al. (U. S. Patent No. 4, 338, 097), in view of G. A. Marsh et al. (U. S. Patent No. 2, 987, 672).

Referring to claims 3-6, Turner discloses that the sensor and reference elements (7a and 7b in Figures 2-3) each comprise a predetermined number of pairs of electrical connection points regularly spaced around the respective ring (see pairs of connections shown in Figure 3);

wherein said sensor and reference element (7a and 7b in Figures 2-3) are connected in series (column 3, lines 39-40) by respective pairs of connection points, and said means for monitoring (circuits in Figures 5-6) is arranged to determine the ratio of the resistances of said elements;

wherein said means for monitoring (circuits in Figures 5-6) is arranged to drive a current through said series connected elements and to pick off voltage values from the various connection points (column 4, lines 28-56).

Still referring to claims 3-6, Turner does not specifically disclose that the electrical connections are diametrically opposed to each other.

G. A. Marsh discloses diametrically opposed electrical connections (see Figures 4 and 8). A person of ordinary skill in the art at the time of the invention would find it obvious to modify Turner to disclose diametrically opposed electrical connections, as taught by G. A. Marsh, for more accurately monitoring the corrosion of the pipe, since certain corrosion occurs at limited area and detecting at various circumferential positions to determine the localized form of corrosion are desired.

5. Claim 9 is rejected under 35 U.S.C. 103(a) as being unpatentable over Turner et al. (U. S. Patent No. 4, 338, 097), in view of Rhoades et al. (U. S. Patent No. 4, 587, 479).

Referring to claim 9, Turner discloses a spacer ring adjacent the test element. Turner does not specifically disclose that the spacer ring comprises a pressure sensor. Rhoades discloses a pressure sensor (144, column 43-57) adjacent the probe element. It would have been obvious to a person of ordinary skill in the art at the time of the invention to modify the spacer ring of Turner to comprise a pressure sensor, as taught by Rhoades, to measure the pressure for compensating errors in corrosion due to fluid pressure of the environment.

Allowable Subject Matter

6. Claim 7 is objected to as being dependent upon a rejected base claim, but would be allowable if rewritten in independent form including all of the limitations of the base claim and any intervening claims.

Conclusion

7. The prior art made of record and not relied upon is considered pertinent to applicant's disclosure.

Kotylev et al. (U. S. Patent No. 4, 158, 806)--discloses electrodes uniformly spaced on the lining along the perimeter of the unit.

Tiefnig (U. S. Patent No. 5, 583, 426)--method and apparatus of determining corrosion of fluids on metallic materials.


8. Any inquiry concerning this communication or earlier communications from the examiner should be directed to Amy He whose telephone number is (703) 305-3360. The examiner can normally be reached on 8:30am-5pm.


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If attempts to reach the examiner by telephone are unsuccessful, the examiner's supervisor, N. Le can be reached on 703-308-0750. The fax phone number for the organization where this application or proceeding is assigned is (703) 872-9306.

Any inquiry of a general nature or relating to the status of this application or proceeding should be directed to the receptionist whose telephone number is 703-305-4900.


AH
December 3, 2003


N. Le
Supervisory Patent Examiner
Technology Center 2800